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EDITORIAL

Bridges Across the Gap

AS THIS ISSUE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICINE goes to press 660 new students are entering California's medical schools, 465 are embarking upon dentistry, 248 are beginning pharmacy and nearly 4,500 are starting out to become nurses. These are young men and women who have chosen to serve their fellow man through one of the health professions. They are fundamentally not very different from the generation which preceded them, unless they are on the average somewhat brighter, better educated when they come to professional school, and perhaps even more deeply committed to the ideal of better health for everyone regardless of his circumstances.

This is not the time or place to discuss their numbers or their qualifications except that both are considerable. Whether California should prepare more nearly the number of health professionals it requires for itself, and perhaps in addition supply some trained personnel for less privileged parts of other nations or the world, are questions of profound moral and practical importance for the years ahead. But today we can simply welcome this impressive group to our midst, confident that their intelligence, education and commitment are such that they will strengthen the quality and bring renewed vigor to the professions they soon will join.

There are many gaps of understanding between

the adult and student generations in present day society. To some degree this has always been true, but in many ways the differences seem sharper than they were. Difficulties often arise because of the attitudes or fancied attitudes which one age group may ascribe to the other, or differences may occur because of sharply changing values. There is much that is new and changing in medicine and there has been lack of communication between generations and some real and fancied attitudes have been ascribed by one generation to the other. A generation gap does exist. It should not be allowed to worsen; rather, it should be lessened.

The editors of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE believe that it is most important that communication between the generations in medicine be strengthened at this time. Person-to-person communication is the best, a people-to-people approach most effective. We believe that this journal can become an important instrument for this purpose if somehow it could reach a substantial number of the 2,000 or so medical students in the state, and reach them on a person-to-person basis. CALIFORNIA MEDICINE strives to reflect not only the latest progress in medical science but also the equally important progress in the efforts of the medical profession to adapt its ancient tradition of service to the social, economic and political realities of the day. In a very real sense, therefore, the journal reflects the common interests shared by both students and practitioners in the betterment of health.

In order to make this journal an instrument of a person-to-person approach of practitioner to student, the editors have established a program for student gift subscription to CALIFORNIA MEDICINE and urge our readers to make use of it. By making one or more gift subscriptions, practicing physi-